

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-61 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 13-19, 22, 25, 29-31, 33-36, and 40 have been amended. Claims 21, 27, and 28 have been cancelled. Claims 42-61 have been withdrawn. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS--35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-24 and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by MacInnis et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the current Application claims priority to U.S. Patent No. 6,233,389, filed on July 30, 1998. The features of Claim 1 are fully supported in the parent application which predates the priority date of MacInnis which is apparently December 14, 1999, given that the Office Action has pointed to new material in MacInnis' parent application U.S. Patent No. 6,853,385 that was filed on August 18, 2000. Therefore, MacInnis does not apply.

Claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-24 and 36-41 are dependent upon Claim 1 and are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicants acknowledge that Claims 25-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1214 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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